

Appendix 3

Texas Department of Health Vision, Mission & Philosophy

Vision

Our vision is that people realize their own best health.

Mission:

Our mission is to enliven communities to improve, protect and promote their collective health.

Philosophy:

We believe in the power of community to help people realize their own best health. A person is part of a community when that person has a sense of belonging, a connection, an identity with a particular group or individual. This sense of belonging is what we call “community” The communities in Texas are as many and diverse as the state is big. We deliberately and continuously seek to learn from these communities, and adjust course in our approach to public health when needed. We serve as a leader in facilitating solutions to health concerns identified by people within these communities.

We commit to working through communities in order to:

- Identify root causes of behaviors which lead to unhealthy outcomes;
- Determine the sources of resilience in achieving healthy outcomes;
- Eliminate health disparities among the state’s minority populations’
- Foster an environment in which people can achieve their own best health;
- Build local capacity to provide a continuum of quality health care to diverse populations; and
- Obtain sustainable public health improvement.

Four principles guide our work:

- Support community-base solutions;
- Ensure that public health efforts lead to improved health outcomes;
- Make prevention the priority of public health efforts; and
- Carry out the state’s leadership role.

This philosophy drives us to continually assess and refine our efforts to work through communities so that all people can achieve their own best health.

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